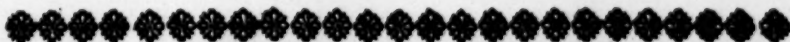


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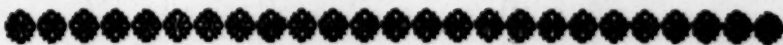
WORD in SEASON

TO THE

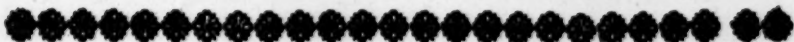
OLD WHIGS.



By an OLD WHIGG.



Post est Occasio calva.



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M DCC LIV.

WORD HENSON

OLD HENSON

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By ALFRED HENSON

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Part of George's collection

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LONDON:

Printed by W. W. Wood, at the
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M.B. 11.1.1



A

WORD in SEASON

TO THE

OLD WHIGS.



I T hath been often wish'd by the
judicious Friends of the Public,
that the Party Distinctions of
Whig and Tory were buried in Oblivion :
and it must be confess'd, that great Incon-
veniencies have often sprung from the unac-
countable Conduct of Individuals, who
B have

have rank'd themselves under one, or both of these Appellations. At present they seem to be Words which might, without Inconveniency, be parted with, as it is not very easy to annex any just and determinate Ideas to them.

If the deepest and most penetrating Politicians of the Age were requested to pronounce decisively, who in these Days is a Whig, and who is a Tory, he might find the Task not so easy as he would perhaps at first imagine. For hath there not been of late Years such a happy Coalition betwixt those, who were some time ago engaged in the warmest Opposition, under these two different Names, that it is scarce possible to distinguish the Difference? they run into mutual Panegyrics on each others Virtue and Loyalty, embrace, confide in each other, and like two friendly Strangers, which have a long Time wanted nothing but a fair Opportunity of Meeting, flow at length composedly together in the same amicable Channel.

We

We have thus the Happiness at last to see the Violence of Party Distinction subside— Many even of the most stubborn and sanguine Tories, and of the fiercest Patriots, have condescended for the *public Good* to soften in some Measure the Asperity of their Temper, to alter their Principles and Sentiments, to sacrifice their Resentments and Opinions, to extricate themselves from their old Embarrassments, and from a close Attention to the Good of their Country, to undertake the Burden of the most arduous, important and *lucrative* Offices of the State.

Again, others who labour'd under Suspicions of having imbibed the Principles of Disaffection, even before they were able to *whip a Top*, have so thoroughly on their Part purged themselves, that their Loyalty at present is become the general Subject of Conversation. At a critical Season, tho' they were most carefully watched, by a *nice* Eye, their Conduct stood the Test; they were observ'd to act most — warmly and faithfully in His Majesty's Service, to prevent all Intelligence from be-

ing convey'd to the Rebels, to discover all *their* Motions and Designs, and at last bravely to stand up, concur in the Trial and Condemnation of their guilty Countrymen and Cofins. Nay. when an opprobrious Accusation afterwards fortuitously started up, charging them with having drunk on some *private Occasions*, at a suspected House, irreputable Toasts, in a Posture, not *very decent*, they made the Evidence appear so prevaricating and ridiculous, show'd, that if done at all, the Thing was done so long ago, and in short, by *one way* or *other* acquitted themselves so much to the universal Satisfaction of the Nation, that the Result of their Accusation expos'd them at length to the Envy of Loyalists who wish'd to labour under the same Suspicions themselves, for the Sake of being acquitted with such Credit and Reputation.

Though the Words Whig and Tory might now therefore not improperly be discarded, yet as by *Whigs* has generally been denoted, a Set of Men, Friends to that public, civil and religious Liberty, which was the Fruit

of

of the glorious Revolution, and to the Family which now rule over us, the Guardians and Protectors thereof, in Opposition to Men of contrary Principles, call'd *Tories*; I shall for the present, wanting Terms more generally understood, make Use of these Words; readily agreeing with such as are of Opinion, that for the future they ought either totally to be changed, or never more mentioned.

At the Approach of a general Election, it is usual to see the different Parties address'd with Advice to exert themselves according to their different Principles, in the proper Choice of Members to represent them in Parliament, as a Majority in the Senate is a promising Circumstance in their Favour; and indeed there is so much apparent Reason in this Conduct, that I am not surpris'd to find it generally pursued and attended to. But however reasonable it may hitherto have appear'd, for a depress'd Party to build their Hopes of better Days on a new Election, and consequently to have thought, that as it were their Whole depended upon
such

such an Opportunity of exerting themselves, I am inclin'd at present, strange tho' it may at the first Sight appear, to dissuade you, my good Old Friends, from any such Thoughts or Intentions; and as I think for unanswerable Reasons. For not at present to insist, that it is from something foreign to this Aid, that you shall owe your future Establishment, if ever you are establish'd, as I think you may be; I cannot perceive that you have at present a just Plea or a suitable Pretence to make an Opposition.—But supposing this was the Case, and that in Consequence you should make an Opposition the next Election, and even succeed in it, I am persuaded it would be the Cause of more Harm than Good,—and lastly, which is indeed the most melancholy Reason of all, supposing your Success could do real Service to your Country, I am fully convinced, that as Things are now circumstanced, it will be absolutely impossible for you to succeed.

As

As to any just Plea for an Opposition of the Whigs at the next Election, I confess myself ignorant: Where will any one attempt to fix it? In Matters of a public or a private Nature? I have heard indeed of Laws having been attempted, that the public Papers have impudently proclaim'd as destructive of Liberty, Morality, and even Religion. But surely these are not the Clamours of Whigs. —For if there was any Thing in reality of this malignant Nature carrying on, who had the Conduct and Management thereof? By whom or under whose Auspices were these Laws propounded, or enacted? Doubtless by those who *profess* themselves, or by those who always were *esteem'd Whigs*.

But if we look a little more accurately into the Nature of these Objections, we shall find the Occasion they furnish for Dissatisfaction will intirely vanish. —For what is it they allude to? —I will suppose the First,
for

for I cannot see where it may otherwise be referr'd, alludes to the Motion for Numbering and Registering the People. — Now whether this Motion were a good one, or a bad one, is by no means so mighty clear. It is certain that this Economy is practis'd in many well regulated *despotic* Governments abroad, and puts the People there in a Method of being more easily converted to the Service of the Public, and wonderfully prevents Irregularities, and Plotting. Indeed if all Restraints of Liberty were to be condemn'd, I can't perceive how the *best Law* that was ever made can be wholly defended, even the Marriage Act. Doubtless it is an Infringement upon Liberty, as the Clergy themselves will allow ; which young Men and Women, who are simple enough to have Designs of marrying out of Principles of *natural Affection*, before they come to Years of Discretion, may complain of ; but certainly no L—C—r, no Arch B— of C—

C—, no experienced, and discreet Parent will. *Love Matches* may be allow'd perhaps to be more *joyous* and *pleasant*; yet must the sage Provisions of Parents be always acknowledged more *prudent*. — But let this Numbering Motion be allow'd in its Consequences not so agreeable to the Humour and Genius of Englishmen,—when it was set in that Light, observe it was no longer supported: *one* honest Yorkshire Gentleman *alone* oppos'd it, and though prepar'd with little Use in speaking, nor furnish'd with much more Elequence, than what the Honesty of his Heart dictated to his Tongue, he alone, at that Time, had Power to throw it out.

As to the other Particulars in which Morality and Religion are suppos'd to be concern'd, we will refer them to what they seem to allude, to the *Gin Act*, and the Act relating to the *Naturalization of Jews* in this Christian Kingdom. And here the

Foundation for Dissatisfaction will appear full as trivial as in the Case above.

As to the former, were Geneva drunk in the Profusion it was before the Regulation in the late Amendment of the Act, something might be said against it. For that Liquor, though necessary to *cheer* and *raise* the Spirits of the *Poor*, may possibly, if not taken discreetly, be attended with Drunkenness, or at least an Elevation of Mind follow'd by Inconveniencies ; and when it was sold under every Hedge, and in every Corner of a Street throughout the Kingdom, at so cheap a Rate, that Beggars themselves could as oft as they pleased make themselves as drunk as Lords, and hardy enough for the most desperate Undertakings, it was justly obnoxious: but now that nothing of this kind for the *future* can *ever* possibly happen, why should the poor People be deprived of so *wholsome* and *necessary* a *Cordial*, especially as it
pre-

prevents the Importation of Foreign Spirits, not a whit better, and is so emolumental at the same Time to the Revenue.

Lastly, as to the Jew Bill, I think the Whigs should well consider what sort of People clamour'd against it, before they join the Cry. But after all, whether it was in its Consequences, prejudicial to our holy Religion and Commerce or not, had no After-Conviction hereof in the Minds of those Persons who enacted it, occasioned the Repeal of it, is not so mighty plain. Did any of the Bench of Bishops look upon it in this Light? I believe *not many*; and very few of the Clergy of any great *Weight* or *Reputation* differ'd from them in Sentiments. On the contrary, many *wise* and *prudent* Men propos'd great Advantages herefrom, both to the Public and Religion. — But for Argument's Sake suppose the worst; suppose what you will in this Case, the Result of it must disarm all your

Resentment, for the *Act* is *repealed* ! when
 it appear'd serviceable to Religion in the
 Common-wealth it was enacted ; when it
 appear'd to be *injurious* to our *holy Religion*,
 it was repeal'd. I say, when it *appear'd*
only, for it is not demonstrable that the Per-
 sons who were the chief Instruments both
 in *making* and *unmaking* this Law, were
 ever, in either Case, *absolutely certain*, as
 indeed the Nature of the Thing will scarce
 admit ; for it is, as I observ'd, a Matter of
 Opinion to this Day among some of *great*
Judgment and *Skill* in public Matters, that
 the Law, both in respect to Religion and
 the State, was actually *a good one*.—To strike
 all Murmuring dumb, was there ever then
 so 'great an Instance of *Condescension* in
 Power, as on the present Occasion ? Or
 can you indeed furnish any other Instance
 where Men of the first Rank and Cha-
 racter in the Legislative Capacity, model'd
 afresh their Notions of Things, from the
Sense of the People, or rather indeed from
 their *Prejudices*, and in Compliance there-
 with,

with, stood up themselves the first Movers for the Repeal of their own Act ; nay, postponed all other Business till they had given the Populace the utmost Joy and Satisfaction by publickly acknowledging and correcting their Mistake ; and by reversing, with mature Deliberation, and Conviction, the *first* Act of one Session, that Law, which they had passed somewhat inconsiderately, they own'd, and in a Hurry, as it were, the *last* of a former !

As to public Matters that are pretended to be exceptionable, I cannot recollect any other, unless you will refer the Affairs in *Ireland* to that Class ; but as the Whigs have been the Transactors of them, I think they are the last Persons that should complain ; and whether a *British* Senate should interfere in the Business of a Country, who have a *Senate of their own*, I won't pretend to judge.—'Tis true, the Whig Interest hath been prodigiously obliged to that People, and it would
be

be extremely unnatural if they should be oppress'd by a Whig Ministry ; so unnatural, that it seems absurd to suppose such an Incident should ever happen.—But if it should, the *Irish* are Men of such Probity and Abilities, and such competent Judges of their *natural* and *lawful Privileges*, and have on all Occasions shewn so inviolable an Attachment to his *Majesty*, and the *Cause of Liberty*, and have ever acted with such Spirit and Prudence, when they have been attacked, that I am persuaded no *Ministry*, unless totally blind to their own *Security*, can ever persist long in their Intentions to *oppress such a People*.

The public Pleas for an Opposition are thus answer'd. — With regard to private Grievances, such as arise from new State Connexions ; the Disgrace of some particular Men, and the Protection and Elevation of others, it will be found, I suppose, that there is nothing new or extraordinary in them. — Because a Man was once a
Tory

Tory or a ———, is that a Reason why he should never see his Error, and become a faithful and loyal Subject, and a trusty Statesman? — How ignorant must that Person be of the World, and indeed of human Nature itself, who does not perceive how Men are alter'd, and changed, and fixt to a Point at last, by their own Interest. — As to any particular Favours or Disgrace thrown upon Men in public Characters, there is nothing in it, but what is the universal Practice of the World. — All Men in the most private Capacity act on the same Plan ; every one contracts his Intimacy, and bestows his Favours, and places Confidence in those who are most of his own Turn and Principles, the most tractable and passive. — But if Court Favours are sometimes bestow'd on the *Suspected*, what can be more tenacious of *such Persons*, as I just observ'd, than their *Interests*. — Men *truly Loyal* want no such Retentives to Loyalty. Whether exalted or degraded, they continue still the same *innocuous honest*
Men

Men the same *warm Friends* to their *Prince*, and their *Country*. And if Ministerial Power hath sometimes been suspected of protecting *bad Men*, what a strong Tendency must Gratitude in such Cases have to make them Good? but if it make them *no better*, it cannot well make them *worse*, so that no Harm is done, and it is at least a *kind* and *compassionate* Use of Power, to protect those, who, without such Protection, would unavoidably sink into *universal Contempt*.—As to Men of Worth and Reputation, under all Neglect and Degradation, they will maintain the Dignity and Applause of their own Mind, and the Esteem of that Portion of Men, of whatever Number it may consist, which alone is valuable: Where then were the Use of extraordinary Power, if proper Objects could not be found for the Exertion of it, and were none to be thereby supported or degraded, but those who would naturally, without any such foreign Assistance, support or degrade themselves?

I have

I have thus endeavoured to enumerate all the Arguments of any seeming Weight in favour of an Opposition, and as they in my Opinion furnish no sufficient Plea, so am I persuaded that if they did, an Opposition would yet be attended with great Discouragements and Inconveniencies, and even if successful, would produce Consequences very singular and ungrateful.

To propose bringing into the next Sessions of Parliament, a Majority of *old true Whigs*, presupposes, in my Opinion, too accurate an Insight into the real Principles of Men. Now as I observed before, Circumstances alter so much with Times, and are with the present Times, actually so altered from former Days that a Whig and Tory are not so easy to be distinguished from each other, as might hastily be conjectured. Who for Instance will deny, but that his Grace the D — of — is an *old, original, staunch Whig*, and yet who can see the least

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Difference at present betwixt his political Principles, and those of Mr.—— or Mr. S—— or the L—— B—— of G——? What then, if after all your Zeal to promote the Interest of Whigs, those Whigs should prove at length to turn out *Tories*, or perhaps even ——, or perhaps in Fact none of the Three, but instead thereof, *profound* and *true Politicians*, unbiaſſed by either Hatred or Affection, directed alone by their private Interest, and calmly riding over the Heads of Parties, Ministers, —— and their People, to the Goal of boundless Ambition, or insatiable Avarice?

But granting that you could know and distinguish with the greatest Accuracy those, on the Steadiness of whose Principles and Conduct you might rely with the utmost Security and Confidence; it is no longer a Secret, that no Election can be carried on at present successfully, without Bribery and Corruption. — The Price of a Vote at an Election, or of a Borough, is as well known
in

in the different Marts for those Commodities, as that of any other saleable Thing brought to the Market. And yet does not every Freeholder at the Time he gives his Vote at an Election, swear that he hath not sold or taken any Consideration for it? Now if he swear this at the same Time that he hath taken a valuable Consideration, is he not perjured? And is not the Person who bribes him and occasions this Perjury, the Tempter and Accomplice in the Guilt of the most black and accumulated Crime? Far am I from the Affectation of Preaching, but I declare to you my Opinion, that this sporting with Oaths, for which this Country is perhaps more notorious than any other in the whole Globe, and in which it is never more wanton, than at a general contested Election, in a Crime that, if it has not already, may shortly make us more ripe for divine Vengeance, than any other Nation under Heaven. It imports you therefore, I think, seriously to reflect, if you exert your-

selves with Spirit in the ensuing Election, though you should be even successful, yet by what dreadful Means you must obtain that Victory, and what little Reason you have to flatter yourselves with *permanent* Good, from Advantages so *shockingly* acquired.

But should we in an Affair of this Sort, as I am afraid is generally the Case, overlook the Means, and consider only the End, grant then that you should, in the common Method of Electioneering, send up to Parliament the next Sessions, a Majority of your own Principles, of *true, staunch, original Whigs*, whom nothing can unhinge or bias; I conjure you seriously again and again to reflect on the Mischiefs that too probably would attend such a Step. Might it not, if these Members should refuse, as probably they would, to act with their *old* Associates under their *new* Connexions, be the Occasion of robbing their Country of
the

the Abilities and eminent Services of those *great Profelites*? or if their Patron should determine once more, as if the whole Fate of the Kingdom depended thereon, to support them, might it not in the End effect even a total Change of Ministry? and could you bear to see those old Friends to the Cause you espouse, deprived of a Power become by long Use as it were natural and essential to their Being? Who, till of late, have ever been accounted the most popular and Patriot Characters; who, when a great Statesman was weary with twenty Years laborious Administration, before any one besides themselves could well perceive it, kindly took the Burden from off his Shoulders; who, since that Time, have effected grand Affairs for the Public, beyond what he with all his Abilities ever attempted, or in all Probability had he lived, would have ever, with all his Interest, had Power to execute: Who have so long conducted all the public Transactions, both in Peace and War,

War, with such Conduct, Success and Reputation; to whom almost every great Man, and every little Man in the Kingdom hath Obligations, Dependencies or Connexions so essential to the Preservation of Liberty, and public Order, who have squandered away such immense Sums of their own Wealth in the Service of their Country, and at the same Time have been most exact Economists of the national Treasure: and who alone in short have Credit, on Emergencies, to borrow adequate Sums of Money on a moderate Premium, to reduce the national Interest; to discharge the national Debt; to establish the national Credit; and in short to effect every individual Thing, that is essential to the public Welfare and Security. Would it not grieve you, I say, should your Success rob the Community of the Service and Abilities of *such great Men*? I know it would affect you deeply.

But

But yet even this, Melancholy as it is, would not be the only Calamity your Success might bring on your Country. For what if these great Men, determined rather to resign than quit their *new Connexions*, should, in Fact, retire from public Business, and most of the great Men in the Kingdom to shew their inviolable Attachments and Affection to them, go along with them, and all together, at once resign their Employments? Good God! What an Insult on M — would you be the innocent Cause of! What Distress in the Government would you occasion, when all the great Places in the Nation should thus become vacant, and no *other Persons* in the *whole Kingdom* should be found with *proper Abilities* to fill them up. It would be endless to enumerate all the ill Consequences that croud in upon my Mind, as the Attendants on a successful

ful Zeal among you at the approaching Election.

But should you not see these Things in the same Light that I do, as after all perhaps you may not, yet I should imagine that the absolute Impossibility of succeeding must, or nothing can, abate your Zeal.

For if you are determin'd to make Use of the common Methods practis'd on these Occasions ☉ to make a bold Push, as you call it, for a Majority in the next Sessions of Parliament, I would ask you, how you propose to go about it ? There are only two ways that I can think of. Your Designs must be effected, either by the Character of your Candidates, or the Influence of your Money and Interest. — I am much mistaken if you will not find them both fail you.

Think

Think you then in Reality, that you shall be able to influence your Tenants by the Character of the Candidates you shall propose to them, or to gain the Vote of one Freeholder, by telling them such a Tale as this, that the Gentleman for Instance, who proposes himself for their Representative, is of singular Discretion, of irreproachable Manners, of prodigious Abilities, of profound Learning, is a loyal Subject, a Friend to his Country, a Man, the whole Conduct of whose Life hath not only been irreproachable, but meritorious ; a Man superior to all little, dishonorable, venal, or even selfish Views? — Alas ! to talk in this simple Manner, in this sagacious Age, would expose you to the Ridicule of the very Women and Children. — Can you then hope that these Boors, or that Country Gentleman will pay a greater Regard to Characters than the rest of the World, than their Betters ? Or will be more sensible

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of

of them, or set a higher Value upon them ? To expect it, would be extravagant Self-Flattery.

But how lightly do they, and all Men see such Characters publicly treated ? How little are they understood ? How slightly attended to ? And with what Indifference suffered to be traduced, insulted, and undermined in the highest Offices, at the Expence even of their *Country* and *Posterity itself*, by Men of *obscure* and *suspicious* Education, Characters and Principles.

Or will you rather try your Success by sounding in the Ears of your Voters, the odious Character of the Person that opposes you, and who is the Rival of so worthy a Candidate, by observing to the Electors that he is of a most *impudent* and *immoral Conversation* ; of a most *false*

false and poultry Disposition ; of an invidious and treacherous Heart ; of very ambiguous and suspected Principles ; what Regard can you hope they will pay to such Remonstrances, when they see Men of this very Character put into Offices of the highest Trust and Honour, and distinguished by all the Marks of — Favour ?

The only Resort then you have left is your Money, and your Interest. I would only ask as to this Matter, a Question or two. Don't you think that they who have the most Money, and the most Power, stand the best Chance for Success ? Don't you perceive plainly that your Opposers have both more Wealth and more Power than you have ? And if they actually have more Power and greater Sums to plead in their Behalf, don't you think they will use them ; and if they do not, you think they will succeed ? If you don't see the Weight of *this* Argument, I am heartily
 sorry

for you, and am persuaded you would not be convinced by the Eloquence of a *Tully* or a *Demosthenes*.

Thus have I, as I imagine, brought the Matter to the Issue proposed; but as I hinted at first that it was on some Cause distinct from Elections, that your most probable Hopes of being again able to serve your Country were built, it may now not be improper to produce it. — What then if an uncontrollable Advocate should declare in your Favour, whom you have never yet once thought of? — What would you say, if you were to be assisted by that great and active Power which stem'd the Torrent of Tory Principles even in *Charles the Second's Days*? — which wrought a glorious and immortal Revolution for you in those of *James*, and which at the Death of *Queen Anne* brought in Triumph to your Protection The ILLUSTRIOUS *House of Han-*
over?

What

What, I say, if *Providence* should be your Friend, and awake at last the *venal* and *abject* Age into that Sense of *Liberty* and *Honour*, which was formerly the essential and distinguishing Character of a *Briton* ; or which is perhaps more natural, dispose the Heart of *Him*, to whom the Power of *governing* and *ruling over us* alone of *Right* belongeth ; to distinguish accurately his, and his Country's *Friends* from their *Enemies* ; those who serve him for *his Sake*, and those who serve Him for *their own* ; those whose *Loyalty* no Discouragements can *alter*, and those the Affection of whose dark and malignant Minds, the most accumulated and undeserved Favours can never conciliate.

F I N I S.

Will I say, if Providence should be
 your Friend, and awake at last the co-
 red and soft light into that State of Li-
 berty and Peace, which was formerly
 the chief and distinguishing Character
 of a Slave; or which is perhaps more
 natural, suppose the heart of him, to whom
 the Power of governing and ruling over
 as alone of Right belongs; to disengage
 ecclesiastically his, and his Country's Friends
 from their Enmities; those who love him for
 his Sake, and those who love him for what
 he is; those whose Enmity no Disengage-
 ments can alter; and those the Affection of
 whose dark and small, and Malignant, the most
 accumulated and unrelieved Furies can
 never condense.

W I W I